

IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Unamended) A device manager for providing a device driver for a device comprising:

a device service for requesting a device;

a remote bus proxy for communicating with a client device;

a remote device driver coupled to a client device;

a device manager for controlling communications between said device service and said remote device driver.

Please add the following new claims 2-35:

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--2. An apparatus for providing access to one or more remote devices over a network, comprising:

a remote device driver coupled to one or more devices;

one or more driver services configured to remotely control one or more of said devices, wherein said remote device driver tracks which of said one or more driver services communicates with which of said one or more devices; and

a device manager configured to register one or more of said device services with said remote device driver to access one or more of said devices.--

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--3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said one or more driver services and said device manager reside in a server domain coupled across a network to said remote device driver.--

--4. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:
a bus device driver coupling said remote device driver to said one or
more devices; and
a bus proxy coupling said one or more driver services to said remote
device driver.--

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--5. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:
a session manager configured to associate one or more sessions with one
or more of said driver services; and
an authentication manager configured to associate one or more sessions
with one or more clients.--

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--6. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said device manager is
configured to enforce a device access policy for registering said one or more
driver services.--

--7. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said device manager maintains
an inventory of devices and respective controlling driver services.--

--8. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said device manager is
configured to locate said one or more devices.--

--9. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said device manager is configured to notify a first driver service of loss of a first device when an associated session ends.--

--10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said device manager is further configured to notify said remote device driver that said first driver service is no longer permitted to control said first device.--

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--11. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said remote device driver is configured to notify said device manager of a configuration change in said one or more devices.--

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--12. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said remote device driver comprises a filter for permitting and denying access by one or more of said driver services, said filter provided by said device manager.--

--13. A method for providing access to one or more remote devices over a network, comprising:

 a device manager receiving a device request from a driver service;
 said device manager registering said driver service with a remote device driver; and
 said driver service communicating with a remote device via said remote device driver.--

--14. The method of claim 13, further comprising said remote device driver sending device configuration information to said device manager.--

--15. The method of claim 13, further comprising a bus device driver exposing one or more devices to said remote device driver.--

--16. The method of claim 13, further comprising:
associating a session with said driver service via a session manager; and
associating said session with a client via an authentication manager.--

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--17. The method of claim 13, wherein registering said driver service comprises enforcing a device access policy.--

--18. The method of claim 13, further comprising maintaining in said remote device driver an association between one or more devices and one or more driver services.--

--19. The method of claim 13, further comprising said device manager maintaining an inventory of devices and respective controlling driver services.--

--20. The method of claim 13, further comprising said remote device driver permitting and denying access to one or more devices based on a filter provided by said device manager.--

--21. The method of claim 13, further comprising said device manager locating one or more devices on said network.--

--22. The method of claim 13, further comprising said device manager notifying said driver service of loss of said device.--

--23. The method of claim 22, wherein said loss of said device is in response to the closing of an associated session.--

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--24. The method of claim 22, further comprising said device manager notifying said remote device driver that said driver service is no longer permitted to control said device.--

--25. A computer program product comprising:
a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer to provide access to a remote device across a network, said computer readable program configured to cause said computer to perform the steps of:

receive a device request from a driver service;
register said driver service with a remote device driver; and
enable said driver service to communicate with a remote device via said remote device driver.--

--26. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein said computer readable program code is further configured to cause said computer to receive device configuration information from said remote device driver.--

--27. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein said computer readable program code is further configured to cause said computer to:
associate a session with said driver service via a session manager; and
associate said session with a client via an authentication manager.--

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--28. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein registering said driver service comprises enforcing a device access policy.--

--29. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein said computer readable program code is further configured to cause said computer to maintain an inventory of devices and respective controlling driver services.--

--30. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein said computer readable program code is further configured to cause said computer to provide a filter to said remote device driver for use in permitting and denying access to one or more devices.--

--31. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein said computer readable program code is further configured to cause said computer to locate one or more devices on said network.--

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--32. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein said computer readable program code is further configured to cause said computer to notify said driver service of loss of said device.--

--33. The computer program product of claim 32, wherein said loss of said device is in response to the closing of an associated session.--

--34. The computer program product of claim 32 wherein said computer readable program code is further configured to cause said computer to notify said remote device driver that said driver service is no longer permitted to control said device.--

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--35. An apparatus for providing access to one or more remote devices over a network, comprising:

one or more devices;
a terminal coupled to said one or more devices, said terminal comprising a first processor and first memory, said first memory comprising first computer readable program code for execution by said first processor, wherein said first computer readable program code comprises a remote device driver coupled to said one or more devices; and

a server coupled to said terminal over a network, said server comprising a second processor and second memory, said second memory comprising second computer readable program code for execution by said second processor, wherein said second computer readable program code comprises:

one or more driver services configured to remotely control one or more of said devices, wherein said remote device driver tracks which of said one or more driver services communicates with which of said one or more devices; and

a device manager configured to register one or more of said device services with said remote device driver to access one or more of said devices.--